

Escape for your Life



***Where are you going...
...after you die?***

TIME FLIES! The days, the weeks, the months, and the years slip by with incredible speed, and are gone before we realize it. It seems as though they no more begin, than they are gone, passed into eternity. So also, the happenings of the day soon recede into distant past. Everything in this world is fleeting and transitory, nothing is stable and lasting, *"We spend our years as a tale that is told", Psalm 90:9.*

Being busily engrossed with the occupations, labours and pursuits of life, we are insensible to the swiftness of passing time, of the solemn fact that life itself is fast getting away from us and that the end of our earthly journey is speedily and surely approaching. Or, if we are conscious that our time is getting short, either we dismiss the thought or reckon that somehow or other all will be well in the end.

How important it is that we keep in mind that our death is ever on the horizon, that we are but a heartbeat from it, and that when we die, we will be ushered into eternity from which there is no return or escape. Since death is so common, we do not give this sufficient thought. We seem to have developed a sense of immunity to such an experience. Because death seems so vague, unreal and unlikely, we fail to take it into serious consideration. Instead, we live as though we were certain of many more years of life, whereas God's Word faithfully warns us: ***"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment", Hebrews 9:27.***

We hear and read of large numbers being killed in war, by accident or lately by the World Trade Centre terrorism attack, of thousands are starving in Africa. But we give this little or no thought; it doesn't mean much to us since we are not personally involved. A neighbour down the street dies, or one of our

own dear ones is taken from us. This may cause us to stop and think for a moment. But soon it is largely gone from our memory and we go on our way day after day, probably with the thought in the back of our mind that we are safe and have no reason to be apprehensive. We have plenty of time yet.

Likely the thought of our death would take on a new and serious meaning if we knew that the moment we pass from this scene (and this could be and may be before this day is over), we would awake in hell, in the *"everlasting burnings"* (Is, 33:14) forever past all hope. But this is just what God's Word makes known to every unsaved sinner, Scripture is clear and plain that *"the wicked shall be turned into hell!" Psalm 9:17. "The rich man also died, and was burned, and in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments", Luk. 16:22-23.*

Many take thought for their bodies, but totally neglect the interests of their immortal souls. But *"what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mark 8:36-37.*

Most drift aimlessly through life without any care or concern as to what is before them after this fleeting life is over, seemingly taking it for granted that somehow or other everything will turn out all right with them in the end. This is what they hope; and they give themselves the benefit of any doubt.

Many have no consciousness of their lost condition. While they do not consider themselves perfect, yet they are not aware that there is anything seriously wrong with them. They are respectable, law abiding

citizens, and consider themselves no worse than their neighbours; and though they scarcely ever read the Bible or enter a church, they fully expect to go heaven when they die. Some will admit that they are sinners, but imagine that their good works will far outnumber their bad ones, Some fancy that all will be well with them because they have joined "the church of their choice", been baptized and partake of the Lord's Supper. On the contrary, God's Word informs us [Titus 3:5] that it is *"not by works of righteousness which we have done"*, that we are saved. **You must be born again!**

Again, we are told that *"there is none good but One, that is, God"*, Matth, 19:17; that *"all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*, Rom. 3:23, and that *"the wrath of God abideth"*, Job. 3:36 on such. This is the condition of every unsaved sinner in the sight of God, be he king or beggar, high or low, rich or poor, moral or immoral, kind or unkind, religious or irreligious.

How prone is human nature to neglect or slight God's solemn warnings and threats of coming judgment. We are told that after death is the judgment of God (Heb. 9:27). The reason for this neglect is that the apprehension of these things is disquieting and disturbing; hence men put such thoughts from them and go on the broad way to eternal hell fire.

Oh, lost sinner! Return to God as a hell deserving sinner and cry for forgiveness! Maybe, He will hear you... **SURE!**
Oh, the consummate folly of such indifference and procrastination when your eternal destiny is at stake!
Soon, very soon, taking the longest possible view, you will go down to the dust and your

spirit will return to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). Oh my dear friends, do not lightly dismiss this matter from your thoughts, or your folly will only accentuate your misery in the Day of judgment. Far better to be made humble now for a time than that you should weep and gnash your teeth (Matth. 8:12) for ever! God's gracious word to you is that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that he turn from his wicked way and live (Ezek 33:11). Cry for Christ, the only Saviour en Redeemer. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Outside of Him there is no life, but eternal destruction. Christ is looking for lost sinners to save them. He is the Good Shepherd Who is looking for lost sheep. Without true faith in Him, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? (Matth. 23:33).

Oh sinner, will you continue another day with God's wrath hanging over your head? Remember, your day of grace may be all but over. That will be your own guilt. God warns you: *"My Spirit shall not always strive with man"*, Gen. 6:3. Take heed to His divine admonition: *"Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near: let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon"*, Is. 55:6-7.

The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin (1 Joh. 1:7).

What a precious Saviour we have, people of God! He is our sin-killer by His own blood, and we are more than conquerors, through Him that loved us (Rom. 8:37).

Oh Sinner, come unto His feet and cry for free mercy, He is willing to give you His saving grace. Jesus Christ receives lost sinners,

prodigal sons and daughters. Nobody is too bad for Him. He eats with prostitutes and tax-collectors, to make them free from all their sins and sanctify them by the Holy Spirit.

"And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up, and saw him and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down: for today I must abide at thy home! And he (Zacchaeus) made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured saying, That He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood and said unto the Lord, Behold, Lord, the half of my goods, I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." (Part of Luke 19. Please, read the whole chapter).

Dear reader, beg the Lord for a personal application of His saving grace in Christ. I implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God! Don't go to hell, but let me meet you in heaven!

May the Lord bless you!

G.P.P. Burggraaf

Note: If you have spiritual questions, don't hesitate to email us. In dependence of the Lord we will try to answer your questions as soon as possible.

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